

BUDGET WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, May 4, 2016, for the purpose of meeting with the Contributions Groups to discuss the Proposed FY 2017 Budget.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The meeting was held in the Multi-purpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad Herling, Leta Mach, Silke Pope. Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan. Councilmember Silke Pope was unable to attend.

OTHERS PRESENT WERE: Greg Varda, Assistant Recreation Director, Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor, Michael McLaughlin, City Manager and James Giese, News Review.

Council met with the following groups and people to discuss funding requests:

***Concert Band** – Tom Cherrix and Paul Quillen represented the Concert Band. Mr. Cherrix noted they get a lot of requests for the wind ensemble which is more available than the full band. Mr. Quillen noted it is a goal to pursue 501(c)3 status. Mr. Putens asked this group and others to get/use a Greenbelt address, if they did not have one.*

***Senior Softball** – George Harrison represented the group. There will be 42 games this season. It was suggested the group reach out to the Golden Age Club again.*

***Friends of the New Deal Café Arts** – Barbara Simon, Leeann Irwin and Talia Kowitt represented the group. Ms. Simon reviewed some of the upcoming programs including plans for Greenbelt Day weekend, a performance by Jan Knutson on June 26, and the Blues Festival in September. In response to a question about funding from the New Deal Cafe, Ms. Simon noted New Deal has staffing and building needs. An additional \$1,000 is being sought for next year for a jazz event.*

***Labor Day Festival Committee** – Linda Ivy, Diane Siegel, Barbara Chadwick and Barbara Simon represented the group and presented a summary for 2015. The shuttle service instituted last year served a good number of people from Franklin Park and the Metro Station. It cost the festival \$1,700 to provide. The festival has not broken even the last two years. The group is looking to purchase a stage and may seek City assistance to store it. The festival uses social media to promote the event. Many positive comments were received about the Rising Stars component.*

***Greenbelt Soccer Alliance** – David Whiteman and Neil McConlogue represented the group. They are serving around 165 youth with a recreational group and a select group. Mr. Whiteman indicated a contribution from the City would be used to reduce the registration cost for Greenbelt participants as they do with New Carrollton. The group would accept a grant rather than become a Contribution Group at this time, until the City has finalized its review of its contribution policy.*

***Greenbelt Community Foundation** – Joanie Cohen-Mitchell represented the group. Funds are being sought for the tenth anniversary for items like banners, tables, tents, post cards and flyers. As with the Soccer Alliance, it was noted that a grant might be more likely at this time versus*

becoming a Contribution Group.

Aquatic Boosters – Khanh Pham and Pam Green represented the group. The group received 501(c)3 status. Lower expenses and income for the current year were caused by the pool being closed for renovation.

Greenbelt Baseball – Greg Fisanich and Jennifer Murray represented the group. The group is now a 501(c)3 group and they are seeking funding and sponsorships. Registration is a bit down. The City's funds are used for uniforms and equipment.

Greenbelt Boys & Girls Club - Orin Howard, Anitra Byers, Michelle Bracy and Chelsea Young represented the group. The cheerleading group has competed well and will go to the national competition in Virginia Beach. Membership has increased particularly in flag football. Looking to move basketball games to the Middle School or Dora Kennedy because the parking and seating is better. The biggest challenge is matching capacity of coaches with the number of children registered. They have applied for 501(c)3 status.

Greenbelt Arts Center – Sandy Irving, Don Cook, Win Britt and Joe Wall, the General Manager represented the group. The list of productions for the coming year was distributed. 2015 was a good fiscal year. Additional funds are sought to expand the hours of the General Manager. There is interest in collaborating with the Old Greenbelt Theatre and New Deal Café. There were compliments for the new seats.

Babe Ruth Association – Bob Sonneveldt and Kelly Ivy represented the group. Membership seems to be increasing after some down years. Concerns about the field condition were raised. It was noted some field repairs are called for in the budget.

Information Items – make sure to include the Dog Park Association to dog park work session and obtain the membership list of the Garden Club.

The meeting ended at 11:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael McLaughlin
City Manager